(b) and (c) A delegation of officials from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as part of ongoing bi-lateral negotiations on plant health held discussions with U.S. authorities in May, 2007. The request of the USA for relaxation of Phytosanitary norms regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments was not accepted by India, in view of likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India. No import consignments, not conforming to the Phytosanitary specifications prescribed under Plant Quarantine (regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, will be permitted entry into the country.

Import of wheat

634. DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of wheat imported during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto July, 2007) and the countries from where it is imported, country-wise;

(b) the details of importing agencies, as authorised by Government; and

(c) the prices per MT in respective cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There was no import of wheat during 2005 on Government account. During the year 2006-07, 54.54 lakh MTs of wheat was imported. The country-wise details of the quantities is given below:-

Sl. No.	Country of origin	Qty. In Lakh MT)
1.	Australia	14.28
2.	Russia	16.71
3.	Canada	11.86
4.	Argentina	1.52
5.	France	2.60
6.	Ukraine	1.72
7.	Bulgaria	0.37
8.	Romania	0.67
9.	Hungry	4.10
10.	Czech Republic of Slovakia	0.71
	TOTAL:	54.54

(b) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., (A Government of India Enterprise), New Delhi, has been authorised by Government for import of wheat on Government account.

(c) During 2006-07 the wheat was imported through five tenders. The tender-wise detail of prices and quantities of wheat imported is given below:-

Sl. No.	Quantity (lakh MT)	Weighted Average Price US $/MT
1.	5.008	178.65
2.	7.877	191.24
3.	22.381	197.29
4.	3.292	209.65
5.	15.983	227.17
TOTAL:	54.54	204.66

Review of PDS in Jammu and Kashmir

635. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed, the Public Distribution System in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the storage capacity of FCI Godowns in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Functioning of TPDS in the State of J&K has been reviewed in April and June, 2007. Allocation and off-take of foodgrains, submission of various reports on functioning of TPDS, implementation of Nine Point Action Plan and action taken on CAG Report, 2006 were reviewed. The storage capacity of FCI in the State is 1.21 lakh tons, which includes 0.96 lakh tons owned by FCI and 0.25 lakh tons hired by it from State Government, CWC and private parties.

Export of sugar

636. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export sugar when the sugar prices are constantly increasing in the country; and

(b) if so, what prompted Government to export sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Central Government decided to allow export of sugar in January, 2007, when the domestic sugar prices had declined considerably and the future prices both domestic and international were showing declining trend.

(b) Does not arise.